REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action mailed October 1, 2003, in which the Applicants' reply (paper #10) dated July 17, 2003 was deemed to be not fully responsive. In this reply, claims 11-12, 31-32, and 41-58 were cancelled, claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 21, 30, and 40 were amended, and new claims 59-71 were added.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a system for providing multiple language support for at least one application program, comprising:

a plurality of language resource bundles comprising associations between language keys and displayable language-sensitive elements, each resource bundle corresponding to a different language, wherein at least one association is specific to a particular application and at least one association is applicable to a plurality of applications; and

a language resource manager configured to receive a first language key from an application program, locate a language resource bundle corresponding to a currently-selected language, identify a language-sensitive element associated with the first language key, and provide the identified language-sensitive element to the application program for display in a graphical user interface.

Neither Atkins et al. reference (*i.e.*, the '547 reference and the '326 reference), alone, or in combination, discloses a language resource bundle including at least one association specific to a particular application, as well as at least one association that is applicable to a plurality of applications. These claimed features are advantageous because the meanings of certain language-sensitive elements may be different from application to application. Moreover, a content developer may choose to provide support for a certain language for one application and not others.

Using a unified approach, as in the '547 reference, there is no way to create application-specific language resource bundles. Assuming that the '547 reference discloses

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the claimed associations, they are applicable to all applications. Likewise, the '326 reference does not distinguish between applications or groups of applications.

The applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that claim 1, as well as dependent claims 2-10 and 13-20, are patentably distinct over the cited references. Claims 21 and 40 have been amended to include the same limitations. Accordingly, the applicants believe that claims 21 and 40, as well as dependent claims 22-30, are patentably distinct for at least the same reasons.

New claim 59 recites a system for providing multiple language support for at least one application program, comprising:

> a plurality of language resource bundles comprising associations between language keys and displayable non-text language-sensitive elements, each resource bundle corresponding to a different language; and

> a language resource manager configured to receive a first language key from an application program, locate a language resource bundle corresponding to a currently-selected language, identify a non-text language-sensitive element associated with the first language key, and provide the identified non-text language-sensitive element to the application program for display in a graphical user interface.

Neither the '547 nor the '326 reference, alone or in combination, discloses a language resource manager that receives a language key from an application program, locates a corresponding language bundle, and identifies non-text language-sensitive elements to be displayed by the application in a graphical user interface (GUI). The '547 reference deals exclusively with the translation of text strings. The '326 reference deals with updating cultural profiles by dragging and dropping locale objects. The applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that claim 59 is patentably distinct.

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New claim 60 recites a system for providing multiple language support for at least one application program, comprising:

a plurality of language resource bundles comprising associations between language keys and displayable language-sensitive elements, each resource bundle corresponding to a different language;

a language switching component to preempt an application program, save a state of the application program, discard the graphical user interface being currently displayed, generate a new graphical user interface comprising at least one new language-sensitive element indicated by a language resource bundle for a received language key, restore the state of the application program, and resume execution of the application program.

Claim 63 recites similar limitations but in method form.

These claims recite a specific process within the language switching component for updating language-sensitive elements in response to a language change. Nothing in the '547 or '326 references discloses preempting an application program, saving the state of the application program, discarding the current GUI, generating a new GUI comprising at least one new language-sensitive element from a language resource bundle for a received language key, restoring the state of the application program, and resuming execution of the application program.

Claim 61 further recites "a parser configured to parse a language resource file comprising descriptors of language keys and descriptors of language-sensitive elements and to generate therefrom a language resource bundle." Claim 64 recites similar limitations but in method form.

The '547 reference does not disclose a parser or even a language resource file containing language keys and descriptors of language-sensitive elements. Rather, the '547 reference uses a text-string translation engine to translate text on-the-fly. This is
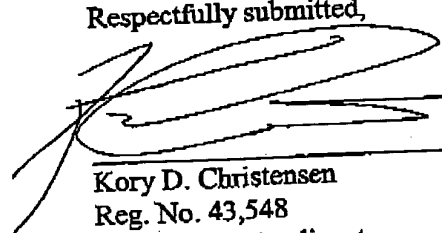
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substantially different than the claimed system that creates a language resource file in advance. The '326 reference does not disclose details of how a cultural profile is created.

Claim 62 recites a language resource file comprising human-readable text. Claim 65 and 72 recites similar limitations but in method form. Independent claim 66 also includes similar limitations. The claimed feature is advantageous in that it allows a content developer to create a language-resource file without the need for expensive tools or specialized knowledge. Neither the '547 reference nor the '326 reference discloses a language resource file comprising human-readable text. Indeed, neither reference discloses a language resource file as claimed.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 60-62, 63-66, and 72 are patentably distinct. Dependent claims 67-71 are believed to be patentably distinct for at least the same reasons.

Reconsideration and early allowance of all pending claims herein are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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